

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 10 through 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows an electro-mechanical actuator 1 mounted to a handle assembly 2 of a tailgate 3. A sliding output rod 4 of the actuator 1 is pivotally connected to a connecting rod 5 that loops over a crank arm 6 of a pitman linkage 7. Tie rods 8, 9 connect the pitman linkage 7 to door latch retaining links 10 (not shown), 11.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 1 through 5 with the following amended paragraph:

As the actuator 1 trips the latch retaining links 10 (not shown), 11, spring loaded latch bolts 19, 20 flip open, simultaneously releasing the tailgate 3 and pushing it over the dead center upright position. Gravity then opens the tailgate 3 until the counter balance torque of the pre-stressed torsion rod spring 12 brings it to a stop, thus avoiding a free fall of the tailgate 3 and any ensuing damage.